

dream must be lived with both responsibility and realism, and must include the Sagittarian philosophy of optimism and confidence in life.

There are two other reasons of *occult* nature for the year of 2015 to bring us special situations, in visible ways or not:

1) It completes the second cycle of 70 years since the creation of the theosophical movement in 1875. An occult seed was sown in human karma during the last decades of the 19th century, so that universal brotherhood could emerge victorious *before the end of the 21st century*, as announced by H. P. Blavatsky.[1]

2) The second reason is that 2015 closes the first cycle of 70 years since the end of World War II in 1945, which sealed the defeat of Nazism. This is good news for the movement. It returned to life seven decades ago after the nightmare of Nazism, and it might deserve another renewal from 2015 on.

NOTE:

[1] See chapter 28 in “The Fire and Light of Theosophical Literature”, Carlos C. Aveline, The Aquarian Theosophist , Portugal, 2013, pp. 247-254.

The Power of the Humble



The opposite of humiliation, says a Neptunian lesson, is not pride: it is humbleness.

To be humble is the natural result of evaluating oneself in a correct way. The blessing flows from doing the best we can and leaving the rest for Time to take care of, as Saturn and Capricorn teach.

The opinion of others is like the wind: stable as rock is the small voice coming from our heart. Peace emerges as we forget ourselves in order to remember our task. Nothing can defeat him who considers it a bliss to be a grain of sand before the Ocean.

Strengthening the Love for Truth

The Next Step for Some Theosophical Institutions



Discernment is unavoidable along the path.

Present generations of theosophists have much to do in unmasking devotional errors, pious frauds and saintly falsehood - not to mention “divine hypocrisy” - on the part of some leaders.

The present state of the largest corporations in the theosophical movement is a reflection of their outdated views of life. In order to recover effectiveness, they must pay more attention to the teachings which come from the Masters. Their direct teachings are alive. They are dynamic and pave the way for students to build a healthy future. The writings of H. P. Blavatsky and the Mahatma Letters do not belong to the 19th century: they belong to 22nd century and beyond. However, one can work inspired by them in the present century already.

Present-day stagnation problems and the decay of some institutions have a common cause. There is no need to wonder why a few “theosophical” bureaucracies have such a difficulty in looking at discipleship from the point of view of the Mahatma Letters. Theosophical politicians systematically leave aside the uncomfortable, severe and true Teachings of the Masters, in order to better follow easy and pious frauds. [1]

Decades-old symptoms like despondency, attachment to routine, self-importance, blind obedience, struggle for power and channeling fake masters result from the childish decision to “prefer the easy path”.

NOTE:

[1] See “Texts on Truth and Illusion”, at <http://www.theosophyonline.com/ler.php?id=3885#.VL5NgEesWE4> .

The Occult War: Our Minds as Disputed Territory



One's soul is often seen as a territory in Psychology.

In his essay "The Unconscious", Sigmund Freud discusses the Topography of human mind (see Part IV). In the search for self-knowledge, one of the tasks is to examine who or what controls our mind's space and "soil", and through which methods, and for what purpose.

How much of one's mind is dedicated to topics that get to it because someone wants to make money or get rich through the use of electronic media?

Up to what extent our physical brains are now adapted to and dependent on external stimuli which quickly succeed one another, so as to prevent any deeper insights? True insights and contemplation need inner silence, to take place.

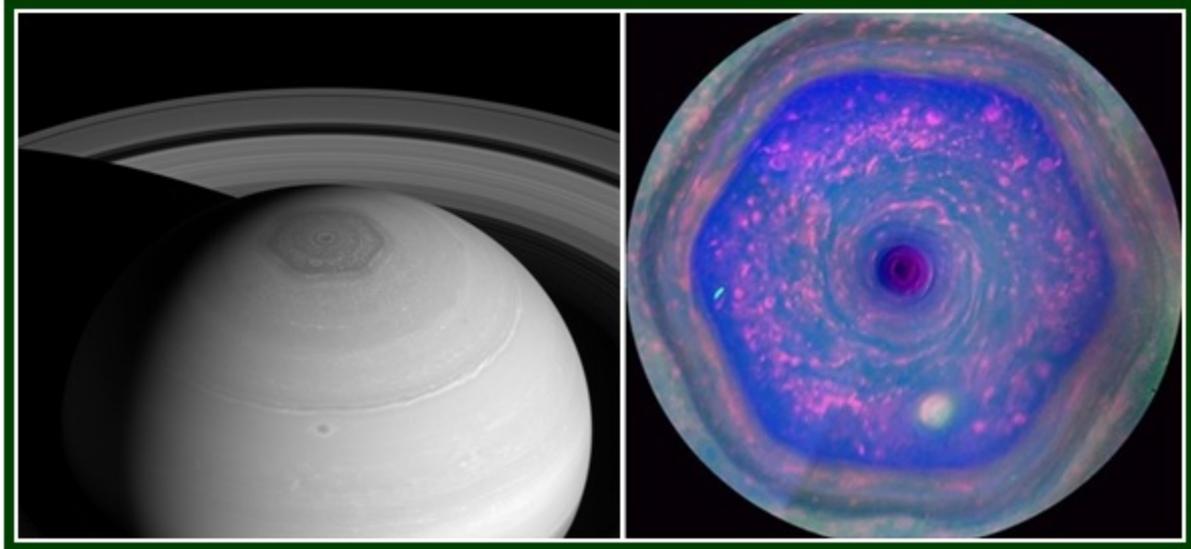
Theosophy destroys the causes of anxiety. Self-respect, self-knowledge and self-control need calm.

In order for us to live in correct ways, we must make a decision not to be carried away by outside pressures whose rhythm is dictated according to commercial interests. There is an undeclared war of commercial interests whose goal is to control the minds of citizens, transforming them from citizens into mere "consumers".

The consciousness of one's higher self is like a warrior, and he challenges the routine of soulless or selfish forms of commerce.

The Symbolism of Saturn's Hexagon

Juan Pedro Bercial



Saturn's Hexagon: a general view (left) and a closer image with artificial colours (Photos: NASA)

When the Voyager probe passed by Saturn it took some shocking images of the North Pole of Saturn, which has a clear hexagon. [1]

This has a relation to Theosophy and Judaism, as the Star of David is one of the emblems in the theosophical movement and the flag of Israel. This is also supported by the fact that Saturday (Saturn's day) is the holy day of the week for Jews. [2]

Moreover, hexagonal geometry is fundamental to life, both organic and inorganic. The bases in DNA, A,C,T, G, are hexagonal, and many biochemical molecules are also hexagonal. The bees (sacred to the Egyptians and present in Masonic symbolism) have hexagonal cells in their hives. It is the most efficient structure - honeycomb - in terms of weight and firmness, which of course has been copied in aerospace engineering and material science in nanomaterials. Snowflakes have also hexagonal geometry, and other cases in nature.

Conventional science is aware of this correspondence, yet not aware of the metaphysical relationships.

Chemistry is sacred geometry in disguise, and perhaps the visions of shamans are biochemical insights and the reason why symbols may have that occult knowledge. A biochemical resonance, or using theosophical terminology, the law of correspondence. Pythagoras has this hermeneutical aspect in his name. Pythons were the maidens in Delphi who divined.

Hermeneutics is about pattern recognition, decoding. Mathematics are a key for this endeavour (both Numbers and Geometry). Once one taps into that realm of symbolism and Sacred Geometry, one can see the Laws of Harmony, Correspondence, and Cause and Effect, integrated in the "music of the spheres".

Do we resonate with symbols because our own chemistry is symbolic? All the atoms in the Universe are connected, and this unfathomable connexion is projected on to the material plane in a precise mathematical way that can be represented symbolically.

NOTES:

[1] There is an article in Wikipedia about *Saturn's Hexagon*.

[2] See "The Fire and Light of Theosophical Literature", Carlos Cardoso Aveline, The Aquarian Theosophist, 2013, chapter 28, "The Bright Side of Saturn".

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Peace as a Creative Movement



Harmony includes and transcends storms.

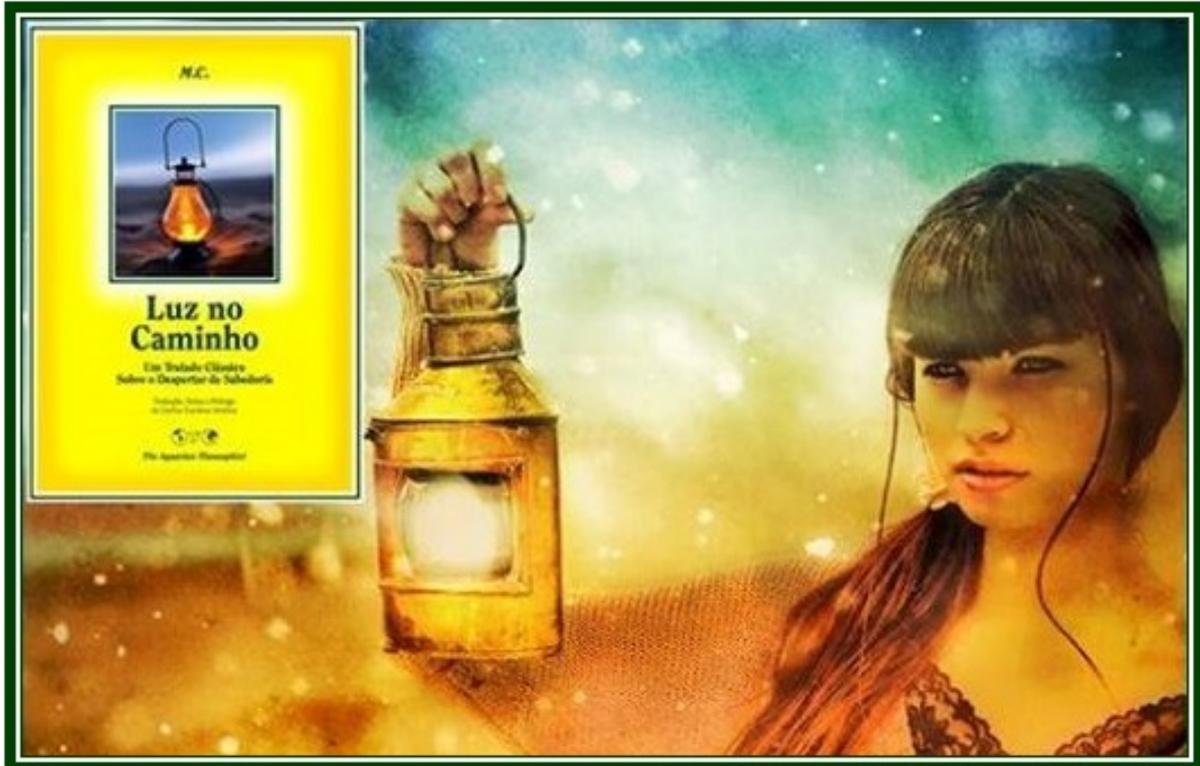
Peace is not a motionless situation. It is a process of constant harmonizing and faces renewed challenges all the time. Thus, a collective effort whose goal is noble must carefully examine its own mistakes in order to learn from them. Painful lessons strengthen the shared decision to win.

Confronted with that which I don't understand, I must recognize my limitations. Every real contact with sacred knowledge makes me more humble and reveals the insignificance of my personal being. Thus is it easier for me to accept my mistakes and make progress with a realistic view of things.

The divine wisdom is not an instrument to embellish selfishness. Material life exists in order for us to understand, step by step, the art of living in line with the law of the universe.

Finding the Light on the Path

How the Birth of Ethics Leads to Discernment



Written down by Ms. Mabel Collins, with commentaries made in some cases by an Initiate, the book “Light on the Path” is one of the greatest among theosophical classics.

The rules and axioms of this small volume have been studied since remote ages by those who try to live according to the Esoteric Wisdom of the East. On the other hand, there are a number of commentaries in the volume which were written by Ms. Collins and transmit false ideas. These passages present decisive tests to the discernment of readers. They result from causes which can be now easily investigated.

Due to the probations and tests faced by theosophists during the 19th century, Ms. Mabel Collins lost her sense of ethics and common sense soon after the publication of “Light on the Path”. The mistakes she then made for lack of respect for truth were already present as seeds, and on an abstract plane, in her approach to the law of karma and her view of the theosophical philosophy, as one can see in her commentaries to the rules in “Light on the Path” and in the final essay of the volume, “Karma”.

The fact that all of the book’s material was published while Helena Blavatsky lived is no guarantee of an absence of mistakes. There is no “infallibility” in esotericism. All things human must be unceasingly improved.

As an editor, H. P. Blavatsky was extremely tolerant and made mistakes for being less severe than she ought to. A short time before dying, H.P.B. received letters of warning from her Master and made a harsh self-criticism in correspondence sent to her friends.[1] H.P.B. realized in 1889 and 1890 that she had underestimated the deficit of ethical feelings and love to self-discipline among the majority of her students. She had been too optimistic regarding the awakening of wisdom in human soul.

Since then, H.P.B. started strengthening the ethical aspect of her teachings and added special intensity to the issue of self-discipline. On 26 April 1890, she wrote in her third message to the North-American theosophists:

“What I said last year remains true today, that is, that the Ethics of Theosophy are more important than any divulgement of psychic laws and facts. The latter relate wholly to the material and evanescent part of the septenary man, but the Ethics sink into and take hold of the real man - the reincarnating Ego.” [2]

Mabel Collins’ Mistakes in “Light on the Path”

“Light on the Path” was first published in 1885, some five years before H.P. Blavatsky’s pedagogical self-criticism.

An examination of the book shows that Mabel Collins did not see Ethics as a decisive factor in theosophy. Some of her gravest mistakes are in the final essay, entitled “Karma”.

The illusion according to which immortal sages are “above” or “outside” the Law of Karma is a trap and opens the door to spiritual defeat.

The Teachers and Initiates are servers who know, live and exemplify the Law. There is nothing outside the Law in the Universe, and there never was. Each deviation will have to be compensated. Each mistake will be corrected. The One Law regulates everything taking place during the periods of manifestation of the Universe, the Manvantaras; the same Law regulates every aspect of the periods of rest in the Cosmos, its Pralayas. Therefore no defeat is permanent.

At each failure, new attempts must be made until victory takes place, little by little. From a theosophical point of view, the learning of one’s soul includes many incarnations. Unlike superstitious religions, there is nothing similar to an “eternal condemnation” in theosophy.

Fear from defeat is an obstacle in itself, when it paralyses the truth seeker. Confidence is a virtue, when caution and prudence are not abandoned. The two most important factors in a pilgrimage are the adoption of a noble goal and the courage to unceasingly try one’s best. Failures indicate mistakes to be corrected in the future. Mabel Collins’ contribution to the theosophical Cause will last, while her personal defeat will be overcome and give way to wisdom.

The failure of a number of students and disciples during the first years of the theosophical movement - in the 19th century - must be looked at from at least two main viewpoints. One of them reveals the mistakes made by the aspirants to discipleship. The illusions which defeated them must be avoided by 21st century students. The other point of view invites us to evaluate the method used in teaching. As we mentioned above, the limitations of HPB’s pedagogical

practice as a teacher led her to make a severe self-criticism. This took place one year after Mabel Collins' crisis regarding the theosophical movement. On the occasion, H. P. Blavatsky had to deal with the defeat of several others, among her co-workers and students.

The teacher who expects too much from students leads them to failure.

The teachings must be transmitted in a rhythm and in a way which reduce as much as possible the danger of a failure on the part of the student. During pioneer efforts, an extraordinary amount of rigour may be historically unavoidable. As time passes, the pedagogical effort can better calculate the effects of its action regarding the pupils. Expectations get to be more realistic, and the teaching is transmitted in a slower way. In teaching, preference is given to that which students can absorb on the basis of a stable practice of Ethics, inseparable from a direct understanding of the abstract universal laws and their dynamics in daily life.

During the 21st century, the esoteric movement must learn from HPB's self-criticism and adapt its view of discipleship. That which is simple can be profound. Topics that are unnecessarily complicated often become superficial. It is correct to build an approach to theosophy that is simple in its operational aspects, and whose complexity remains invisible in normal conditions.

Discipleship has always occurred in widely implicit ways, and trying to "organize" it in too detailed ways through material and institutional structures would provoke problems that are hard to solve in the present phase of human evolution.

“Light on the Path” and “The Voice of the Silence”

In the first paragraph of the Preface to “The Voice of the Silence”, H.P. Blavatsky writes:

“The following pages are derived from *The Book of the Golden Precepts*, one of the works put into the hands of mystic students in the East. The knowledge of them is obligatory in that School, the teachings of which are accepted by many Theosophists. Therefore, as I know many of these Precepts by heart, the work of translating has been relatively an easy task for me.” [3]

The main source of Mabel Collins' book “Light on the Path” is the same “Book of the Golden Precepts”, which has never been known to the wider public. The similarity between the teachings of “Light on the Path” and “The Voice of the Silence” is great. In the first lines of “Light on the Path” we see these axioms:

“Before the eyes can see, they must be incapable of tears. Before the ear can hear, it must have lost its sensitiveness. Before the voice can speak in the presence of the Masters it must have lost the power to wound. Before the soul can stand in the presence of the Masters its feet must be washed in the blood of the heart.” [4]

And we find the following words in the first paragraphs of “The Voice of the Silence”:

“Before the Soul can see, the Harmony within must be attained, and fleshly eyes be rendered blind to all illusion. Before the Soul can hear, the image (man) has to become as deaf to roarings as to whispers, to cries of bellowing elephants as to the silvery buzzing of the golden fire-fly. Before the Soul can comprehend and may remember, she must unto the Silent

Speaker be united” [5]

The similitude does not occur by chance. In an article included in the “Collected Writings”, H.P. Blavatsky herself says that part of the aphorisms in “Light on the Path” come from the same source of “The Voice of the Silence”. She writes that axioms like “*Before the voice can speak in the presence of the Masters it must have lost its power to wound*” and other sentences are “as old as the *Book the Golden Precepts*, from which they radiated (...) into *Light on the Path*”. [6]

Although these two works have much in common, there are various significant differences between them.

“Light on the Path” results from the cooperation of a Greek high Initiate with a student from a Western country. Its language is easier to understand for readers of the West. “The Voice of the Silence” was written by an Initiate Disciple, and much more advanced than Mabel Collins. “The Voice of the Silence” is a totally Eastern work and more challenging to the reader. In it, Helena Blavatsky pays less attention to the specific psychological complexities which seem to be so important to Western souls.

The Lesson Present in the Traps

H. P. Blavatsky mentioned the mistakes made by M. Collins in a letter published in 1889. She wrote that “the lustre of that priceless little jewel, *Light on the Path*, is henceforth dimmed by a great black stain that nothing can wash out.” [7]

In the same year, in a personal letter to a theosophist named John Ransom Bridge, HPB considered “insidious” and “dangerous” the rule number 20 of the book.[8] She added that only “*the main body*” of the volume was dictated by a true Adept, and the rest was “added from the inner consciousness of Miss Mabel Collins”.

On other occasions, HPB informed that the Adept was not a Master [9], nor a Mahatma.[10] There is public evidence that the name he used in the 19th century was Illarion [11], also spelled as Hilarion, and that he was Greek.[12]

Rule I-20 in “The Light on the Path”

There are two “rules number 20” in “Light on the Path”: one belongs to the first series of rules, the other to the second. HPB does not clarify to which part of the book she refers. Rule 20 in the second series has one sentence only. Its idea does not seem to be ethically questionable and it is not commented by M. Collins. We must infer that HPB questioned rule 20 of the first series, which is long, complex, and was commented by M. Collins.

HPB added that rule 20 has an “Occult venom”, and a “close relationship to Tantrika Black Magic”. However, it is not easy to find “venom” on rule I-20. By mentioning this harmless part of the book, HPB may have wanted to say to her correspondent that the book had serious occult problems, without specifically revealing them or dwelling on them.

This is likely because on occasions when HPB could not speak openly, she would often write enigmatic sentences as the ones used in this case. She thus caused a certain perplexity which could lead people to investigate in the right direction and discover facts on their own merit.

A critical examination of rule I-20 shows that its text does not make the fact clear enough that a total renunciation is necessary in one's lower self. However, this is a minor error if one examines the book as a whole.

A sentence can be seen as dangerous in rule I-20 of "Light on the Path". Referring to the Path, it says: "Seek it by testing all experience".

However, the real meaning of the axiom is: "Seek [the path] by seeing as a test each experience you have in life". And this idea is correct.

One should also examine the following question:

"What kind of 'experience' must the pilgrim accept and undergo in his life?"

This will depend on his main intention in life and the intentions of his emotional being. Every pilgrim who dedicates himself to a noble cause soon realizes that inner purification is unavoidable. [13]

Rule I-20 contains warnings about the need to lead a pure life. Various ideas in the rule and in the commentary to it are useful and profound. While looking at these lines, however, HPB may have seen the confused mental state of Mabel Collins, who wrote them down. This fragment of the book does not have a necessarily venomous effect to all readers. Each one must observe it with independence and take into consideration the different factors involved.

While a number of ethical mistakes can be seen in the book and must be identified in public, HPB recognized in more than one occasion the great value of the work. "Light on the Path" is a classic text and belongs in the library of every student of esoteric philosophy, including newcomers and experienced learners. The failings of the book exemplify the need to avoid blind belief: the truth-seeker must think by himself.

Although Mabel Collins cooperated with an Adept, she did not have solid foundations in her life. Her defeat as a disciple is a sign of alert about the need to constantly re-examine the firmness (or otherwise) of the ground on which we walk. Only altruism is stable. An effective progress along the way to wisdom must be obtained by our own merit, while we work with a feeling of unconditional love for truth and in close cooperation with other good-willing individuals.

Life obeys to the Law of symmetry and justice. It is by helping those who may know less, that a pilgrim starts receiving the help - perhaps invisible - of Those who know more than he does.

Intelligence is Impartial

In the Note to item 10 of the second series of rules, "Light on the Path" presents an idea which deserves special attention:

"Intelligence is impartial: no man is your enemy: no man is your friend. All alike are your teachers."

Such an axiom must be correctly understood, as one perseveres in the spiritual effort, so as to avoid naïve ideas about the mutual help process among companions, or about one's family relations. [14]

The community of students must establish a harmony as strong as possible, and a complete cooperation as long as karma allows it to. The same challenge operates in the universe of family relations. Life flows according to the law of symmetry. At each step along the road to sacredness, the student has to take one step away from the world of personal interests. His decision to look for the best will be tested in several painful and unexpected ways. This results from the action of the impersonal forces which fight the divine world.

Although the search for lay discipleship is only a preliminary preparation for a more advanced learning, it contains in itself, in small scale, the main elements of the future. Hence the decisive importance of thinking about discipleship, as one studies theosophy.

The Law of Symmetry is the law of karma and regulates discipleship. [15] The Mahatma Letters show that anti-spiritual energies are consciously used by Eastern Esoteric sages in order to avoid the premature or unstable progress of their students. On Letter 30, one Master says that some “dugpas” (anti-evolutionary, anti-ethical sorcerers) receive “carte blanche” from the magicians of goodness and altruism to test in cruel ways the “chelas” or disciples of divine wisdom.

This takes place, says the teacher, for some time and “with the sole object of drawing out the whole *inner* nature of the chela, most of the nooks and corners of which, would remain dark and concealed for ever, were not an opportunity afforded to test each of these corners in turn.” And the Mahatma adds: “Whether the chela wins or loses the prize - depends solely of himself.” [16]

There are no specific forewarnings for tests and traps emerging along the path. They appear in unexpected ways, often in the student's most intimate relationships, and when inner affinity is the greatest. They come through family and in the interaction with companions along the spiritual road. The history of the theosophical movement gives us countless examples of the fact.

Each student must remember, therefore, that supreme intelligence is impartial: nobody is his friend, in the conventional sense of the word; and nobody is his enemy. Everyone is his teacher.

NOTES:

[1] See the text “Helena Blavatsky's Self-Criticism” by Carlos Cardoso Aveline. The article is published in www.TheosophyOnline.com and its associated websites.

[2] “Five Messages”, H. P. Blavatsky, Theosophy Co., Los Angeles, 1922, 32 pp., see p. 26. The booklet is available at www.TheosophyOnline.com and www.FilosofiaEsoterica.com.

[3] “The Voice of the Silence”, translated and annotated by H.P.B., Theosophy Company, Los Angeles, 1987, 110 pp., p. i.

[4] “Light on the Path”, M.C., Theosophy Co., Mumbai, India.

[5] “The Voice of the Silence”, Theosophy Company, pp. 2-3.

[6] “Collected Writings”, H. P. Blavatsky, TPH, USA, volume XI, pp. 318-319.

[7] See the letter to the journal “Light”, dated June 1889 and reproduced on pp. 284-286 of volume XI, “Collected Writings of H.P.B.” The sentence quoted is on p. 286.

[8] The letter is published on “The Theosophical Forum” magazine (Pasadena-Point Loma Society), October 1944, pp. 469-474. See especially the upper part of p. 472. More on the spiritual and ethical failure of Mabel Collins can be seen on Chapter 11, Part 6, of the book “HPB”, by Sylvia Cranston. The novel “The Blossom and the Fruit”, by Mabel Collins, is the story of a spiritual failure. Her book “The Idyll of the White Lotus” narrates another defeat and describes treasons. The language of failure is not needed in the 21st century. Severity must be compensated by a sense of confidence. A certainty of the long term victory protects the pilgrim.

[9] See the document “To All Theosophists, The Esoteric Section of the Theosophical Society and its Enemies”, in “Collected Writings of H.P. Blavatsky”, TPH, vol. XI, especially pp. 314-315.

[10] “Collected Writings”, volume XI. See the upper part of p. 285.

[11] “Collected Writings”, volume XI, p. 320. This Adept also wrote mystical stories in cooperation with HPB, as hinted in “Letters from the Masters of the Wisdom”, first series, letter 20. The word Adept, used in theosophy to designate Initiates and High Initiates, means literally “one who knows”.

[12] “Collected Writings”, volume XI, p. 285.

[13] See the article “Undergoing All Experience”, by John Garrigues, which is published at www.TheosophyOnline.com and its associated websites. The “ultimate human experience” is to observe and understand life as a whole.

[14] See for instance the text “One for All, And All for One”, by Carlos Cardoso Aveline, which is published at www.TheosophyOnline.com and its associated websites.

[15] Read “The Law of Symmetry”, by C.C.A., which is published at www.TheosophyOnline.com and its associated websites.

[16] “The Mahatma Letters”, TUP edition, Pasadena, California, Letter 30, first lines of p. 232.

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The above text is a translation from the prologue by Carlos C. Aveline to the book “Luz no Caminho” (‘Light on the Path’), by M.C., The Aquarian Theosophist, Portugal, 85 pp., 2014.

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If we begin to think aright, we give direction to that Spiritual Force which is the very essence of our nature. Let a man think aright, let him think and act unselfishly, and just so surely as he does that he opens up the channels of his brain to a greater and greater perception and realization of his own nature.

(Robert Crosbie in “The Friendly Philosopher”, Theosophy Co., 1945, p.261)

HELENA BLAVATSKY: Each Star and Planet is a Temple



... **T**he planets are not merely spheres, twinkling in Space, and made to shine for no purpose, but the domains of various beings with whom the profane are so far unacquainted; nevertheless, having a mysterious, unbroken, and powerful connection with men and globes.

Every heavenly body is the temple of *a* god, and these gods themselves are the temples of GOD, the Unknown “*Not Spirit*”. There is nothing profane in the Universe. All Nature is a consecrated place, as Young says:

“Each of these Stars is a religious house.”. . . .

Thus can all exoteric religions be shown the falsified copies of the esoteric teaching. It is the priesthood which has to be held responsible for the reaction in favour of materialism of our day. It is by worshiping and enforcing on the masses the worship of the shells - personified for purposes of allegory - of pagan ideals, that the latest exoteric religion has made of Western lands a Pandemonium, in which the higher classes worship the golden calf, and the lower and ignorant masses are made to worship an idol with feet of clay.

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Reproduced from “The Secret Doctrine”, by Helena P. Blavatsky, Theosophy Co., Los Angeles, Volume I, p. 578.

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The Key to Harmony



Each individual is the central source of life's harmonization.

A living and balanced proportion of all factors constantly emerges from the spiritual soul towards periphery. It comes from the essential to the secondary.

One's peace of mind cannot be the mere result of external facts, but harmony in outward facts results from one's peace of mind. The spiritual soul can silently harmonize all things. Human mind is able to see the invisible line of peace that unites all beings through Justice.

Harmony is a personal decision. It includes, it lives, observes and transcends the conflicts. Although the flow of harmony can't be described in words, it changes the aspect of all existing things.

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What is truth?

Truth is not a man, nor a book, nor a statement. The nature of Truth is *universal*; its possessors in any degree will be found to be appliers of universality in thought, speech and action. Their efforts will be for humanity regardless of sex, creed, caste or color. They will never be found among those claiming to be the chosen spokesman of the Deity - and exacting homage from their fellow-men: true Brotherhood includes the least developed as well as the very highest.

(Robert Crosbie in "The Friendly Philosopher", Theosophy Co., 1945, p.363)

The Action and the Words Eating Cutlery Is Not Good for the Teeth



The teachings of the original theosophy are recorded, as long as it is possible, in the classical literature of modern esotericism. Just as the plate and cutlery are useful to physical plane meals, the written or oral teachings of esoteric philosophy are vehicles and tools of a spiritual nurturing, but they are not the nurturing itself.

Eating cutlery is not good for the teeth. Reading the dead letter of esoteric literature does hardly any good to the student. The important factor is what he does or does not do with the teaching: his motivation. A soup transcends the plate, just as the wisdom goes beyond the sentence.

A conscious intention to do good and forget oneself may be imperceptibly replaced by desires that are less than noble. Especially so if the student forgets that nothing is guaranteed along the road towards knowledge.

Steps already taken will emerge again and again in front of him under new and more elegant clothing. He will have to choose a number of times between renunciation and hypocrisy, loyalty and treason, a comfortable self-delusion and the risky path to the unknown. The greatest danger uses to hide behind that which is comfortably spiritual, nice and pleasant. Victory is attained into the extent that the pilgrim accepts the defeat of his illusions. True blessing flows when we live in peace with the natural difficulties of life, and when the focus of consciousness is above the short-term tides of life.

Concentrating Magnetic Force



Since everyone has several levels of consciousness, a degree of contradiction between different points of view in himself seems to be unavoidable.

In the life of one who studies esoteric philosophy, such a conflict is slowly dissolved by the growing contact with his own spiritual soul.

There is an expansion of the magnetic unity among all things thought, felt, said and wished by him, and this makes a quicker progress possible. By such an “internal union”, actions cease to cancel one another - and magnetism is preserved.

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A Mahatma, on How Best to Study Theosophy

“... **Y**ou can do nothing better than to study the two doctrines - of *Karma* and Nirvana - as profoundly as you can. Unless you are thoroughly well acquainted with the two tenets - the double key to the metaphysics of Abidharma - you will always find yourself at sea in trying to comprehend the rest. We have several sorts of Karma and Nirvana in their various applications - to the Universe, the world, Devas, Buddhas, Bodhisatwas, men and animals - the second including its seven kingdoms.”

[From “*The Mahatma Letters*”, TUP edition, p. 110. These lines were quoted by Joaquim Soares in a message to “*E-Theosophy*”, in YahooGroups, 19 January 2015.]

Thoughts Along the Road

Observing the Sacredness of Daily Life



* Self-restraint leads to happiness.

* A sense of inner peace expands confidence and enables one to better face the challenges of life.

* Where there is a will, there is a way: if one firmly decides to do something good, opportunities will emerge.

* For the sunrise to take place, there must be a sunset somewhere. The practice of renunciation makes victory possible.

* In philosophy, the inner strength of any school of thought rests on the Ethics emerging from people's hearts, as they study its literature.

* Does the outer world appear as chaotic to you? Take refuge in your own spiritual soul, make peace within you and then look again to the world, from the point of view of that inner balance.

* The mind is an instrument, not a master. The voice of the heart and the will to do good are both above one's thoughts. A disciplined intellect is a source of blessing, if its master - the heart - remains universal.

* Short-term decisions should not be contradictory with long term goals. To search for wisdom requires planning, and also a will that is strong enough to ignore any "immediate" pressures that are blind and do not resist an examination.

- * The path to wisdom is never limited to the contemplation of universal laws and principles. It needs a critical view of things, accurate information, objective decisions, planning, and constant planting of new and better habits in daily life.
- * Intense personal desire often creates noise, fear and conflict. Strength of will is different. It can work in silence, for it comes with renunciation - the courage of detachment - and an impersonal love for truth.
- * Each new generation of students is able to discern and identify a number of unseen meanings in the classics of theosophical literature. Timeless wisdom is always surprising, if not revolutionary, for those who have the eyes to see.
- * Long before having a purified mind, one must have the courage necessary to get rid of devotional frauds, pious lies and other forms of blind belief. Some of these “mystical frauds” may be intellectually sophisticated. That makes no difference. Hypocrites have no chance to be disciples of true wisdom.
- * An intense study of universal wisdom provokes revolutionary effects in one’s life, especially if one is able to look at his everyday existence from the point of view of the matters studied. The apparent difficulty of “The Secret Doctrine”, by H. P. Blavatsky, makes sure one can only understand the book if fully concentrated on it, and mind concentration makes the difference in self-enlightenment.
- * Self-knowledge requires a long-standing study of the universe. Another necessary factor is an impersonal observation of oneself, one’s mistakes, one’s achievements and potentialities towards wisdom.
- * Human soul lives in unity with the entire solar system and has therefore unlimited resources. To have a direct access to them, however, selflessness is the key. One must develop a humble approach to eternal wisdom.
- * Feelings of anxiety make it more difficult to have an accurate view of life. An elevated point of view and wide horizons enable us to see the truth.
- * In order to be better transparent in thought and feeling, it is necessary to expand contact with one’s immortal soul. That which is pure and healthy is also transparent. Right thought produces direct sincerity, while courtesy and *social skills* are often used to hide selfishness.
- * Goodwill paves the way to good karma.
- * Correct views regarding the future of civilization must guide the building of pioneering structures for such a healthy future. The original teachings of theosophy have much to say about this *emanation* process.
- * A wise and wide mind is not necessarily busy with one thousand and one issues at the same time.

